

Coming Soon!

SGAUS Stipend, Scholarship, &
Soldier/NCO/Officer of the Year
Program
15 March 2017

NETCOM/U.S. Army MARS HF
COMMEX
31 March – 1 April

2017 Mid-Year Meeting
8 April 2017
Nashville, TN

JAG Training & Conference
8 April 2017
Nashville, TN

SDF Times - Next Edition
30 April 2017
Submission Deadline

Chaplain Training & Conference
21-23 September 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC

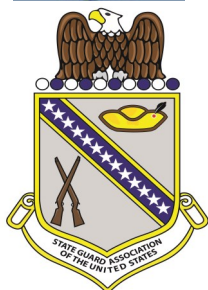
PAO/PIO Training & Conference
22 September 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC

JAG Training & Conference
22-23 September 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC

Engineer Training & Conference
22-23 September 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC

MEMS Training & Conference
23 September 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC

2017 SGAUS Annual Conference
22-24 September 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC



Presidents Message



FROM MAJ. GEN. (S.C.) THOMAS STOWE MULLIKIN
Commander of the South Carolina State Guard
President of the State Guard Association of the
United States (SGAUS)

Members of SGAUS, there is an air of great excitement and anticipation across the United States as we've now ushered in new executive leadership, not only at the federal level, but in many instances

at the individual state level. Here in S.C., for instance, former Gov. Nikki Haley is the new U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. She has been succeeded by our new Gov. (former Lt. Gov.) Henry McMaster, a personal friend of many years.

Like Ambassador Haley when she was in the governor's mansion, Gov. McMaster is now – among his myriad other powers and titles – the commander-in-chief of the S.C. State Guard.

In many ways and in addition to the aforementioned "excitement and anticipation," Gov. McMaster ushers in a new era of tremendous opportunity for the entire S.C. Military Dept. (SCMD) – which includes the S.C. Army National Guard, the S.C. Air National Guard, the Emergency Management Div. and the S.C. State Guard among other SCMD agencies – of which the S.C. State Guard is the SCMD's state defense force component.

As has been reported in SDF Times, the S.C. State Guard has experienced tremendous change over the past two-to-three years in terms of standards, mission, relevancy, reputation, and overall professionalism. Now under the leadership of Gov. McMaster, S.C. adjutant general Maj. Gen. Bob Livingston (who commands the SCMD) and myself; the S.C. State Guard's dramatic sea-change from what I have referred to as "good to great to elite" will continue to progress in ways not previously imagined.

But it's not simply my state that I am passionate about. I want to – and will – bring this concept of "good to great to elite" to all of our nation's state defense forces through SGAUS. And I challenge all of our state commander's to demand the same from their respective all-volunteer state defense force organizations.



Presidents Message cont.

State defense forces are vital to the safety and security of our states. We've proven that time-and-again here in S.C., but perhaps most notably when we were called to respond to Hurricanes Joaquin in 2015 and Matthew in 2016 through our professional lanes – providing physicians and other medical professionals, attorneys, engineers, university professors, military experts, law enforcement professionals, communications experts and various solutions people – all of whom played key roles in mitigating the damage and other effects of the natural disasters wrought by those storms. Not to mention the S.C. State Guard selected smart, fit personnel from among our ranks, trained them, organized them into three geographic-specific teams; allowing us to then field one of the nation's premier search-and-rescue capabilities which proved to be second-to-none.

These are lanes and dynamics we plan to achieve for all state defense forces through SGAUS. And we will, but we need your support.

SGAUS is growing; our membership increased by 26 percent in 2016, and that percentage continues to climb.

Still, there is much work to do at the state and national levels, and we want everyone to be involved. We have an upcoming communications exercise sponsored by the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM). That exercise will be held Mar. 31, 2017. We have an upcoming JAG conference in Nashville, TN, Apr. 8. And we have our annual SGAUS conference, slated for Sept. 22-24, here in my home state of S.C. in the resort city of Myrtle Beach.

Please take a look at the SGAUS website. Yes, it's still a work-in-progress, but we now have several new academies featured on the site. You'll also notice, SGAUS has partnered with Rothco, the world's foremost supplier of military, tactical, outdoor clothing and gear.

In parting, let me add our deadline to apply for the 2017 SGAUS Scholarship and Annual Conference Stipend is Mar. 15; as is the deadline for all state defense force commanders to submit for consideration their respective state Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers of the Year.

Thank you all for your service to your individual states, our national organization, and for the nation as a whole. Please don't hesitate to let me know how I, my staff or my office may be of service to you.

CA

Joint Missions Trending Across the State"

written by 2LT Chin

(Camp Pendleton, CA)--With the recent re-organization of the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) happening across the state, and personnel numbers increasing at a slower rate than expected, Soldiers are stepping up to fill gaps to complete missions. One example of this effort is the joint mission 21 October 2016, where 25 soldiers from the 79th Support Brigade (headquartered in Kearney Mesa, CA) came together in a joint range mission to support the 1/18th Cavalry. This mission was led by Charlie Company Commander, CPT (CA) Daniel Derkum, with the support of HHC/ 79th Support brigade and it's Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Company Soldiers who participated. The mission operations order detailed support of 530 members of the 1/18th Cavalry, assisting them on weapons qualification on the M4, M9 and M249 weapons.

When asked about how he felt about the joint mission, Derkum said, "I think it is fantastic that Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Company's are working together. We're looking for more Soldiers to help the National Guard meet their missions successfully." Prior to Soldier's names being placed on the mission TDA, they each attended the PMI class conducted by Charlie Company PMI instructors in which Soldiers from other companies attended. In tandem with recruiting efforts, this trend of working jointly across units and geographical areas validates CSMR Soldiers commitment, capability and their dedication to meeting missions successfully in support of our state guard. Soldiers, both National guard and CSMR, trained and worked side by side, in support of this range mission.

The California State Military Reserve (CSMR) is an all-volunteer State Defense Force. Our primary mission is to support the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard (CNG) in its Homeland Defense, Homeland Security missions and service to California during times of State Emergencies.



CA

Joint Missions Trending Across the State

written by 2LT Chin

SPC (CA) Michael Harrison remarked, "I never thought we would get this opportunity. This mission gives us an idea of what the other side does." SPC (CA) Andre Tardiff agrees and said, "I enjoyed it so much, I want to do it again. It makes me want to give and do even more."

A command field visit was conducted by COL(CA) Joseph von Sauer, Commander of the 79th Support Brigade, along with COL(CA) Russell Nakaishik, Chief of Staff and CSM (CA) Richard Moriarity, Command Sergeants Major



"CSMR Soldiers continue to train to meet and exceed standards in support of whatever mission they are called to do. This range mission in support of the 1/18th Cavalry proves that our Soldiers are committed, dedicated and needed for the National Guard to succeed. We will be supporting 1/18th Cavalry's upcoming 2017 Annual Training (AT) next June and encourage more soldiers to participate," said CSM(CA) Moriarity of the 79th Support Brigade.





JAG Training academy LOCKED AND LOADED for mid-year conference

COMMITTEE leadership PREPARED FOR third year of jag training excellence

The SGAUS JAG Training Committee is capitalizing on its string of successful annual Training Academies by expanding its frequency to include a Training academy that corresponds with the SGAUS 2017 mid-year conference in Nashville. On 8 April 2017, State Guard JAG's from multiple states, including California, Indiana, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, will converge upon the Hilton Garden Inn Nashville Airport for a full day of MILOPS lectures and a rigorous trial advocacy skills practicum. Highly respected guest lecturers will talk on a variety of legal topics, including Cyber-Security and Anti-Terrorism. CLE credit is offered for most courses, but is not guaranteed for all attendees.

Beginning in 2016, SGAUS implemented a JAG Skills Qualification Program which is available to all State Guard JAGs who are active members of SGAUS. To become JAG skills certified, the participant must successfully complete all ten on-line training modules that are currently offered through the SGAUS PME Academy. Next, the participant must attend no less than 4 hours of MILOPS training that is offered at a SGAUS sanctioned event, such as the mid-year or annual conferences. Finally, the participant must demonstrate proficiency in a mock trial advocacy practicum, which are also offered at sanctioned SGAUS events. Successful candidates will be awarded a JAG Skills Qualification Certificate. As an alternative, JAG's with documented prior Federal experience will be grandfathered into the Program.

The JAG Training Academy was created by CPT (TX) Ernest Garcia in 2014. The inaugural one-day JAG Training Academy corresponded with the 2015 SGAUS Annual Conference in Hanover, Maryland. Building upon the success of the inaugural Academy, the 2016 JAG Training Academy took place in Puerto Rico, concurrent with the 2016 Annual Conference. The second Academy was led by JAG Training Committee Co-chairs CPT (IN) Aravon McCalla and CPT (TX) Michael Parker. Several attendees at the Puerto Rico Academy became the first to successfully complete the JAG Skills Qualification Program. Since then, the number of active candidates has grown to include JAG's from several states, as well as a few National Guard JAG's. CPT McCalla and CPT Parker are back in their SGAUS JAG leadership roles for the 2017 mid-year conference in Nashville and the 2017 annual conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

All active SGAUS members who are also State Guard JAG's are encouraged to earn their SGAUS JAG Skills Certificate. The JAG Skills Qualification Program point of contact is CPT (TX) Michael Parker, who can be reached at mrp@parkerllp.com, and Michael.r.parker@txsg.state.tx.us. CPT Parker can also be reached at his Ft. Worth, TX office: 817-442-9500. There is no charge for the on-line training modules, and the fee for attending the one-day JAG Training Academy is just \$50. JAG Academy attendees are responsible for their own transportation and lodging. Becoming JAG Skills Certified and attending the mid-year for annual conferences are the best possible ways for State Guard JAG's to prove their value as force multipliers and to network with JAG's from other states.



GA



Georgia SDF Supports Hurricane Matthew Relief In Augusta

Article -Photos by 2nd Lt. D. Brice Hughes & Sgt. Sandra Ibarra

AUGUSTA, Georgia, October 9, 2016 – Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) Soldiers in east Georgia were recently activated to support emergency relief efforts following Hurricane Matthew. GSDF Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 5th Brigade, 76th Support Brigade, and Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) supported 10 American Red Cross hurricane evacuation shelters at schools, community centers, and a church beginning on October 8 in Augusta, Georgia.

Using classrooms at Tubman Education Center as a Tactical Operations Center, Soldiers from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade based at Fort Gordon, Georgia went into action. After working with shelter managers to assess needs, GSDF teams were dispatched to provide emergency assistance. Maj. John W. Morgan, officer in charge during the mission, reported that approximately 2,900 evacuees were temporarily housed in the 10 shelters supported by the GSDF.

As soldiers from 1st Brigade began to arrive, GSDF members were sent to provide support at shelters with the highest number of evacuees. Teams were sent to the remaining shelters when additional Soldiers from 76th Support Brigade and TRADOC became available. GSDF Soldiers provided area security, crowd control, and chaplain services. In addition, GSDF members assisted Red Cross volunteers in setting up cots for evacuees and distributing supplies.

These emergency relief duties took place just one week after the GSDF completed its Annual Training. During the training, members of the GSDF responded to the simulated aftermath of a hurricane in south Georgia. Because of the training and preparation the GSDF completes, they are able to effectively respond to real-world events such as Hurricane Matthew.



Staff Sgt. Torkelson (left) and Pfc. Lyman (right) review a task list in the hurricane evacuation shelter at Tubman Education Center in Augusta, Georgia on October 9, 2016. (Georgia State Defense Force photo by 2nd Lt. Hughes)



Maj. Ward (right) points out a shelter location to Staff Sgt. Blalock (left) in the Tactical Operations Center at Tubman Education Center in Augusta, Georgia on October 9, 2016. (Georgia State Defense Force photo by 2nd Lt. Hughes)

A member of the Georgia State Defense Force provides lunch to an evacuee displaced by Hurricane Matthew at Tubman Education Center in Augusta, Georgia on October 10, 2016. (Georgia State Defense Force photo by Sgt. Ibarra)



GA



Georgia SDF Annual Training 2016

By 2nd Lt. Michael Chapman, Photos: Pfc. Andreas Alsdorf

SAVANNAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Garden City, Ga., Oct. 2, 2016 – The Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) recently completed another successful Annual Training (AT). Several hundred GSDF members arrived at Savannah Air National Guard (ANG) Base in the final week of September to organize and run a realtime training exercise. The 2016 AT was a joint operation involving all three branches of the Georgia Department of Defense (DoD) and conducted at several installations across Georgia. The GSDF relied on assets provided by the Georgia Army National Guard (GAARNG) 78th Aviation Troop Command and the Georgia Air National Guard 165th Airlift Wing. The goal of AT 2016 was to maintain and improve readiness in order to respond to natural disasters.

During the exercise, GSDF members performed a mass casualty triage and evacuation exercise along with a Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR) operation. The exercise began on Friday, September 30, and concluded on Sunday, October 2, with a forcewide discussion and evaluation of the exercise. During the exercise, 50 casualties, played by Georgia National Guard Youth Challenge Academy students, were located at Wright Army Airfield (WAAF) at Fort Stewart. In addition, two simulated missing persons were located at the Georgia Garrison Training Center, also at Fort Stewart. A team of GSDF members flew on a C-130 Hercules to WAAF while another team flew on a CH-47 Chinook to Fort Stewart.



Georgia State Defense Force Soldiers render aid to a mock casualty during Annual Training at Fort Stewart, Georgia on October 1, 2016. (Georgia State Defense Force photo by Pfc. Alsdorf)



Georgia State Defense Force Soldiers call-in a situation report to the tactical operations center while conducting a search and rescue simulation during Annual Training at Fort Stewart, Georgia. (Georgia State Defense Force photo by 2nd Lt. Chapman)

GA



Georgia SDF Annual Training 2016

By 2nd Lt. Michael Chapman, Photos: Pfc. Andreas Alsdorf

GSDF members were tasked with recovering the casualties, performing triage, and providing medical care in order to stabilize the casualties for transport back to the Savannah ANG Base. During the WSAR exercise at the Georgia Garrison Training Center, a UH-60 Black Hawk was called in to evacuate the casualty. All simulated casualties, along with all GSDF personnel, returned to the Savannah ANG Base where secondary triage was performed and appropriate medical care was provided to the casualties.

Along with members of the GSDF, several other dignitaries were on hand during AT. Brig. Gen. Jesse T. Simmons, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General – Air, Georgia DoD and Commander, Georgia ANG, and Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip A. Stringfield, Senior Enlisted Advisor Georgia DoD and State Command Sergeant Major, GAARNG, both attended AT. The attendance of such important guests serves as a testament to the strong partnership between each branch of the Georgia DoD. Training events, such as this AT field exercise, help the GSDF to identify strengths as well as areas in which improvements are needed. AT is a way to ensure that the GSDF is prepared for any eventuality. Brig. Gen. Thomas Danielson, Commanding General, GSDF, said, “The bottom line is we’re here to support the people of the state of Georgia.”



Georgia State Defense Force Soldiers board a C-130 Hercules during Annual Training at the Air Dominance Center near Savannah, Georgia on October 1, 2016. (Georgia State Defense Force photo by Pfc. Alsdorf)

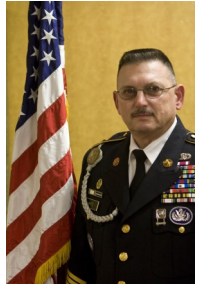
Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operation Center anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefit process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full Name
- Next of Kin
- Social Security Number and/or service number
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Copy of death certificate
- Retired rank
- Copy of the Statement of Service Last DD Form 214)

**How to Report the Death
of a Retired Soldier**

State Guard Association Military Emergency Management

CSM(IN) Tim White Commandant MEMS



Happy New Year to all the members of the State Guard Association of the United States, and the MEMS Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to give you an overview of what is going on with the Academy for the past few months. The West Virginia National Guard has gotten involved with the MEMS academy and we have certified 4 personnel so far. The Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia is in the process of signing a memorandum of agreement to allow the WV National Guard to wear the MEMS badge. Once that happens my life will be busier than I thought I was going to be. However, after my communications with the Command Staff of the State of West Virginia, I believe it is going to happen.

We have had a couple of ASD changes in the past few months. The following States have new ASDs, Alaska, Texas and New Mexico. I will be posting their information in the near future at the website and updating the student manual. It will be sent to the Executive Director as well.

We have set up a Reciprocity Standard for FEMA personnel wanting to join the MEMS Academy team. This was a directive from the Board of Directors. The Commandant will be the only certifying authority for this group of personnel, by order of the Executive Director.

I will be setting more time aside to work on MEMS this upcoming year. I just retired from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office after 21.5 years, so I will be looking at curriculum for 2018. I have gotten several suggestions for the 2018 curriculum already, and some of them are pretty good. SGM Tredy and I are looking at this issue on a regular basis.

I want to thank all the ASDs for their work they have done with MEMS, we have excelled to a point I thought I would ever see. The problems have been minimal at best and I am happy that these issues are being handled in state.

The Facebook page is going faster than membership at the website. I am happy to see this and I want to use it more. However, I will be sending out some blast emails here in the future for suggestions for the 2018 Curriculum.

Welcome to 2017, and let's keep the wheel rolling.



GA



“Real-World” Readiness: Georgia SDF Soldiers Erect 50-Patient Mobile Field Hospital

By PFC Beverly Shepard, beverly.shepard@gasdf.us Photos: CW2 Raymond Clunie

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY, Marietta, Ga., Aug., 13, 2016—In an impressive display of readiness, Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) Soldiers handily erected a 50-patient mobile field hospital—one of eight throughout the state—while demonstrating “real-world” emergency preparedness capabilities that could save lives during a catastrophe.

The 911th Support Battalion and 132nd Medical Battalion of the 76th Support Brigade led the exercise, executed after several months of planning and coordination. Soldiers from GSDF’s HHC (Headquarters and Headquarters Company), G3 (Operations and Training), Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, and TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command) also joined the training, so that Soldiers from multiple units would be familiar with the activity.

“We could potentially be deployed anywhere in Georgia,” 1st Lt. Duncan, from the 911th Support Battalion and the Officer in Charge of the exercise, said in referring to an emergency or catastrophic event. “Having Soldiers ready, willing, and able to serve in this capacity helps us provide assistance to others much faster.”



Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) Soldiers listen as Matthew Crumpton, Healthcare Training and Exercise Manager for the Georgia Department of Public Health’s Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, explains the layout of the “Mobile Medical Asset” trailer during a GSDF training exercise, Aug. 13, 2016, at Kennesaw State University’s Marietta campus in Marietta, Ga.

The Georgia Department of Public Health’s Division of Health Protection provided the two 28-foot “Mobile Medical Asset” trailers used for the training exercise. The trailers each weigh approximately 11,000 pounds. They contain various medical equipment and supplies—from cots and disposable linens to stethoscopes and sterilizers—necessary for operating a fully functional field hospital.

The trailers house massive tents. Once inflated, the tents transform into the mobile units that serve as various sections of the hospital. The largest of the mobile units is 22’ x 42’. When all mobile units are completely erected, they cover an area nearly the size of a football field. The mobile medical units are sturdy, and have generators to power air conditioners, heating units, and light fixtures.

GA



““Real-World” Readiness: Georgia SDF Soldiers Erect 50-Patient Mobile Field Hospital Cont.

By PFC Beverly Shepard, beverly.shepard@gasdf.us Photos: CW2 Raymond Clunie

The mobile units could operate indefinitely as a hospital. One operated for four months following a tornado that ripped through Americus, Ga., in March 2007. The tornado left the hospital with broken windows and a partially sheared façade, rendering it inoperable.

“Our mobile hospitals can operate as any other hospital would operate,” said Matthew Crumpton, Healthcare Training and Exercise Manager for the Georgia Department of Public Health’s Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response. Crumpton pointed out that these structures can be used during emergencies, as well as in non-emergency maximum-capacity situations, such as when brick-and-mortar hospitals are full.

In addition to the Marietta location, other mobile medical units are pre-positioned in Albany, Augusta, Clayton County, Columbus, Gainesville, Macon, and Waycross. However, mobile medical units can be dispatched anywhere throughout the state.

Following preliminary instructions, GSDF Soldiers peeled off their military blouses and tackled the mammoth operation with zeal. The exercise involved removing the massive mobile units (tents) and other equipment from the trailers, erecting the medical units, and later disassembling them.

Georgia Department of Public Health representatives were on hand for Saturday’s exercise. They assisted Sgt. 1st Class Stewart, of the 132nd Medical Battalion, who served as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the exercise, in providing direction and guidance to the Soldiers. Soldiers will demonstrate these skills again at Annual Training (AT) 2016.

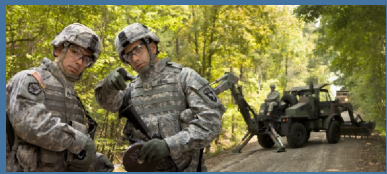
“Realistic training is imperative to fulfill our ability to assist in meaningful medical care during a crisis situation,” said Lt. Col. Greene, Command Surgeon of the GSDF. “This training will be further enhanced at AT 2016, with a full mass-casualty exercise involving members of the 76th Support Brigade, along with members of the 5th Brigade, in erecting, staffing, and operating a mobile surge hospital.”

Col. Williams, Commander of GSDF’s 76th Support Brigade, spoke with Soldiers during a break in the training, thanking them for dedicating their time and effort during a non-drill weekend.

“This is real-world,” said Col. Williams. “If needed, the GSDF can now conduct this critical activity throughout the state. It’s another value we bring to the citizens of Georgia.”



Georgia State Defense Force Soldiers install lighting in the mobile medical hospital as a part of their training during this exercise, Aug. 13, 2016, at Kennesaw State University’s Marietta campus in Marietta, Ga



ESQiD, SGAUS Engineer Program

LTC(MD) Edward A. Hubner, PE

We have been fielding many questions from our membership about the ESQiD program since the details about the September meeting has been announced. We, at SGAUS are very pleased to see the interest level from our membership. While those who submitted direct questions will be responded to individually, we wanted to take a moment to address the membership as a whole and perhaps address some questions yet to be asked.

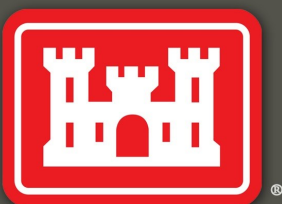
The ESQiD program was developed to create a set of credentials to identify a soldier as a qualified individual for providing engineering support to their State. To that end, the SDF in your State must have specific engineering missions and soldiers assigned to execute those missions. The SDF should have Mission Essential Tasks Lists (METLs) developed to support those missions. Unlike the MEMS program, which has a consistency across jurisdictions, the ESQiD program is made to be tailored to each State's engineering mission and their unit's METLs. As such, each State runs it's own ESQiD program with the individual State program approved by the ESQiD Academy. Currently, the following States have approved trainers: Alaska, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

The following States have approved programs, consistent with their unique missions and METLs: Alaska, Maryland, and New York.

As to the individual soldier's qualifications/skills/education, it is more a question of your MOS in your SDF and less your degree. If you are in a SDF in one of the States listed above, we urge you to contact your State ESQiD coordinator. If you do not see your State listed above, Please discuss through your chain of command. If your State is interested, we can discuss with your CG or their designate, how to get the ball rolling.

The Functional Area Training scheduled for the SGAUS Convention is to help participating States move their programs forward, share lessons learned and touch back on the prior "train the trainer" sessions.

Again, we thank you for your interest and your help to move the program forward.



DID YOU KNOW - HOW TO CORRECT

To request a correction of your records in the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting system (DEERS), you must start with the U.S. Army Human Resources Command's Veteran Inquiry Branch. They will verify/or correct your records at the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS). If your DFAS record is not corrected first, any change you make in DEERS will be overwritten by the information in your DFAS record. Start by contacting HRC at (888) 276-9472 or askhrc.army@army.mil. You'll need to complete a Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, and provide birth certificate.

GA



Georgia SDF Joins Multiagency Training Exercise

By Pfc. Andreas Alsdorf, andreas.alsdorf@gasdf.us

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 17, 2016 – Members of 1st Brigade and the 76th Support Brigade, Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF), recently teamed up with 15 other local, state, and federal agencies for a full-scale public health exercise. GSDF Soldiers participated in loading and off-loading approximately forty simulated casualties from a C-130 Hercules aircraft. Charlie Bunn, Incident Commander during the operation, described the multiagency collaboration as, “A magnificent display of the impact the Georgia State Defense Force has on this scenario.”



GSDF Soldiers participate in a multiagency training exercise at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta on Sept. 17, 2016.

Over 200 participants, including 35 GSDF Soldiers, took part in the exercise which focused on the safe movement, evaluation, and treatment of injured persons. “We rely 100% on the Georgia State Defense Force,” said Pam Blackwell, Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response for Cobb & Douglas Public Health.



GSDF Soldiers off-load a simulated casualty during a multiagency training exercise at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta on Sept. 17, 2016.

ality event, the procedures used to receive large numbers of patients can be utilized in hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other emergencies.

GSDF Soldiers work with other local, state, and federal partners during a multiagency training exercise at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta on Sept. 17, 2016.

The exercise was conducted at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program. Although the primary purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the operational capabilities required by hospitals to manage victims of a mass casu-



IN



New Fitness Standards proposed for older IGR soldiers

The IGR fitness test currently matches the US ARMY fitness standards for sit-ups, push-ups and a 2-mile run. (Soldiers are scored based on their performance in three events consisting of the push-up, sit-up, and a two-mile run, ranging from 0 to 100 points in each event. A minimum score of 60 in each event is required to pass the test. The soldier's overall score is the sum of the points from the three events. If a soldier passes all three events, the total may range from 180 to 300.)

The IGR has two methods of assessing physical fitness. One uses the U.S. Army fitness standards. The other is the completion of a two-and-a-half mile walk in NUMBER OF MINUTES or less. The latter method takes into account, that the many of the IGR soldiers may not be able to or may not desire to maintain the more rigorous fitness life styles required of the active and reserve military forces. However, many of the IGR soldiers wish to maintain a lifestyle that supports a balance upper body, core, lower body and cardiovascular fitness.

These soldiers elect to be tested according to the Army standards, with sit ups, push-ups and a timed two-mile run. However, the evaluation standards must be both safe and fair.

Because nearly all regular and reserve army soldiers separate from the service after age 62, the Army fitness standards are calculated by professional exercise physiology and medical staff for age levels up to and including 62-years-old. The standards consider the effects of advancing age on physiological performance, and base exercise repetition numbers and completion times on the soldiers' ages.

The IGR allows soldiers to continue to serve until the age of 75. Unfortunately, because official Army fitness standards are not currently available beyond age 62, all soldiers above the age of 62 are required to perform at the fitness level required of 62-year-olds. The assumption that this is a safe or fair procedure is contrary to the established Army policy of accounting for incrementally decreasing performance levels for soldiers advancing in age from 18 to 62.

We have therefore proposed that, to continue to encourage whole-body fitness of IGR members over the age of 62, without endangering their health with unreasonable performance demands, IGR should develop performance standards adjusted to include levels appropriate for this group. The standards should be developed by qualified professionals. We in MEDCOM have proposed a regression analysis from 62 to 75 years of age. We believe that this will allow our soldiers to compete in a fair way for their age but also prevent medical risk.

For further reading see the following link:

MAJ Julian Ungar-Sargon MD PhD, Medical Director

Physician Company, MEDCOM Indiana Guard Reserve Julian.ungar@igr.in.gov



NETCOM/U.S. Army MARS HF COMMEX



The US Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) will be running a "low power" HF radio exercise on Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April. This exercise is open to all Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, Military Auxiliary, Canadian military, and CFARS units wishing to participate.

The purpose of this exercise is to give Soldiers an opportunity to train with their HF radios from home-station in a no-threat, semi-competitive training environment. Participants wishing to compete for score are asked to run no more than 20 watts and use field expedient antennas. Stations who want to run higher power and bigger antennas may serve as contact stations but cannot compete for score. The exercise is done on both single channel as well as ALE frequencies...all contacts are via plain text voice...exchanged information will be their UTM grid zone designator and callsigns. Stations competing for score are asked to email a log of their contacts. Stations will receive score multipliers for ALE contacts as well for sending "tac chat" messages via HF.

Last year's top military stations were: Nebraska Army National Guard C Co, 1-134 CAV (LRS); Army Recon School Fort Benning, and the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

NETCOM will provide an information packet containing the log format and general exercise information.

Competition requirements: Units/teams who wish to compete for score will be limited to 20 watts output power and field expedient antennas. Units/teams who wish to participate running high power and larger antennas are welcome to train but cannot compete for points.

Exercise dates: Friday 311500 Hrs Z March – 012359 Hrs Z April 2017

Scoring: Units/teams wishing to compete will be asked to submit a station log of all contacts made during the exercise.

Frequencies: HF frequencies will be provided by NETCOM.

Those interested should coordinate with their chain of command for approval and authorization.

SDF G6/G3: For info & sign up, contact: carmen.m.griffin.ctr@mail.mil / 520 538-8166



UMD & MDDF Team Up on Infrastructure Education

By Maj. Stephen Rice srice@mddf.us

The University of Maryland and the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) teamed up for the third straight year this Fall semester to teach a course called Infrastructure and Society at the College Park campus. This three credit service learning course is designed to emphasize the importance of identifying the root causes of the "Infrastructure Crisis." The course also focuses on the need to maintain infrastructure's viability for a functioning society. The chief instructor for the course is Dr. David Tomblin. The MDDF course instructors are led by Lt. Col. (MDDF) Ed Hubner and Maj. (MDDF) Isadore Beattie and are sourced from the MDDF 121st Engineer Regiment.



The course has several learning outcomes which include ensuring that the students understand the importance of infrastructure systems and explore the social and political barriers to the proper maintenance of infrastructure. The course also enables students to gain hands on technical knowledge

of building science and infrastructure assessment while working with professional engineers. As a service learning course, the curriculum provided the students with the opportunity to give back to their community through the implementation of a service project.

The service project for the class commenced after the students received building science and installation status report training. This empowered the students under supervision of the MDDF 121st Engineer Regiment to participate in the MDDF's Installation Status Report assessment program. On an annual basis, all Maryland National Guard armories are evaluated by the MDDF 121st Engineer Regiment and a report is submitted to the Maryland Military Department. This report provides information on what kind of maintenance, repair and capital expenditures are needed to ensure that the armories are able to operate as effectively as possible.



Under the direction of the 121st Engineer Regiment, the students participated in armory assessments in different parts of the state and helped to provide information critical to the drafting of the report. Lt. Col. (MDDF) Ed Hubner shared, "This is such an effective class experience because the students get hands on experience with infrastructure evaluation. This augments the theoretical components of the class and drives home the importance of infrastructure to the operations of an effective society." Samantha Corbel, a student in the class said, "I thoroughly enjoyed our weekly lessons on infrastructure where I learned so much that had never been very apparent to me." Brig. Gen. (MDDF) Lorenza Cooper, commanding general of the MDDF commented, "The 121st Engineer Regiment's participation and support of this community service activity aligns with both the Maryland Military Department and the University of Maryland's strategic objectives.

The Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) is the State's uniformed volunteer military unit providing professional and technical assistance to the Maryland Military Department. Established in 1917, the MDDF consists of nearly 250 personnel who perform legal, engineering, finance, medical, chaplain, field support and ceremonial services for the State of Maryland. For more information: www.mddf.maryland.gov.



MS



Mississippi State Guard Change of Command

By PAO Office

MSSG Headquarters, Jackson, MS – The Mississippi State Guard (MSSG) welcomed a new Commanding General, Brigadier General (MS) Douglas M. Hayhurst, in a change of command ceremony at Mississippi National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters, Jackson, MS on August 6 at 11 a.m.

BG Douglas M. Hayhurst took over duties as commanding general from Maj. Gen. McElreath. McElreath was awarded the Mississippi Magnolia Cross. He then retired after ten years in the MSSG following 42 years of combined service in the Mississippi National Guard and US Marine Corps where he retired as a Col.

The change of command ceremony was officiated by Major General Augustus L. Collins, Adjutant General of Mississippi. A reception followed at Mississippi National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters.

During his ceremony, Hayhurst took the podium and praised all of the Soldiers,

“To all of you, the soldiers of the MSSG, that I have had the privilege to serve with, because of your dedication and professionalism we have accomplished much and I am a better person and a better officer because of you.”

From the podium, BG Hayhurst added, “We will continue to build on the success we have had under General McElreath and take this organization to the level required for us to meet the demands asked of us to support the National Guard and Our great state.”

Incoming Commanding General, BG Hayhurst began his active military service with a tour of Vietnam in 1968. Subsequent tours included two deployments in support



of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After 41 years of service Hayhurst retired from the United States Army Reserve in 2010. He joined the Mississippi State Guard in 2010 holding the positions of 2nd Brigade Operations Officer, Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, Operations and Training, Commander, 2nd Security Brigade and Chief of Staff. He and his wife of 35 years, Betty reside in Corinth, MS.



A New Year Begins

State Guard Association Command Sergeant Major

CSM(SC) Mark Freeman

Last year was a busy year with the South Carolina State Guard. The end of the year always gives me time to reflect on what we accomplished over the course of the last 12 months. As we spend time with family over Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year holidays, we usually have some type of break from training and missions.



This year, however, we still had some units in the field over the holidays working on Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. I am very proud of the troops who serve our State.

A lot of people love to take the holidays at the end of the year to travel home to spend time with their families. But our dedicated troops continued to serve selflessly. I was asked by our Engineers to come to Nichols, South Carolina the week of Thanksgiving to help their unit. While there, I was able to use my civilian work skills for the benefit of the South Carolina State Guard.

What amazes me most is how dedicated State Defense Force troops are. The troops with whom I spent time that week were motivated to get their mission accomplished. I'm sure they were all thinking of family back home, but they were serving because of a greater sense of duty to their state. There would be many families in South Carolina that would not be able to celebrate the holidays at home. Their homes were not habitable because of Hurricane Matthew. The streets I walked through were for the most part empty of people. There were a few homes that didn't suffer damage that were still being lived in, but for the most part it was a ghost town. The smell of mold was very prevalent walking down the streets. If you looked in the windows of the homes, you could see mold on the walls and stains where the water level peaked. The streets were piled with ruined furniture, television sets, wet sheet rock, wet insulation, building materials and other debris.

The South Carolina State Guard Engineering Command asked for help from other units during the holidays. Our Chaplains and Medical Detachment were a huge asset to our Engineers. Chaplains or our Medical troops would accompany our Engineers to inspect houses and buildings. The victims of Hurricane Matthew needed someone to talk to.

Our Medical Troops and Chaplains could talk to the residents while our Engineers and Architects completed their inspections of the homes and buildings. I did not realize how important it was to have someone with you to talk and mostly listen to the residents until I was in the field working in the disaster zone.

I was getting elevations on the finish floor levels of homes and buildings and spoke to several residents who were trying to clean up. I talked to one gentleman for 45 minutes. He just needed someone to listen to him. He was an



SGAUS Command Sergeant Major Message cont.

automotive mechanic and lived in an apartment on the side of his automotive garage. All of his diagnostic equipment was destroyed. His personal vehicles and some clients' vehicles were flooded and destroyed. There was a fertilizer plant up the street from him. The fertilizer was washed away in the flood waters and you could see the stain of fertilizer on the walls of his shop. He had a chain link fence around the side and rear of his property where he kept the vehicles locked up. Some of the fence was pushed down from the rush of the flood waters, but the fence that could have been saved was already rusting from the fertilizer that had been in the flood waters. This gentleman was just trying to figure out how to proceed with life. He told me he was in his sixties and he really didn't want to go in debt to replace his tools and equipment so close to retirement.

I enjoyed being able to listen and give support to this man who had his life turned upside down by Hurricane Matthew, but there were many more with similar stories that just needed to be heard. That was when I realized our opportunity to use troops with different skill sets aside from engineering in such a circumstance. The importance of having other troops who could serve by listening while I continued making progress with my work became very evident.

Listening is an important skill at all levels. We in leadership roles can make our units better if we stay attuned to the needs of our subordinates. We need to listen to the troops who are in the field. They know what they need to complete their missions.

I feel like one of the most important parts of my State Guard job is listening to the troops for whom I am responsible. I really do enjoy speaking to the enlisted troops one on one. Sometimes all they need is for someone to give them an ear. I try to make it a point during activation periods to visit our units wherever they are. Often I will visit an armory where they are sleeping and I will sit down on a cot beside someone and just ask, "is there anything I can do for you?"

We just completed another example of listening. As we started our new year with the South Carolina State Guard, The staff and I listened to briefings from our Brigades and other units on training, missions, recruiting and other items. The briefers then listened to MG Mullikin as he gave suggestions and direction to the briefers. Listening is a two-way street that must be used in leadership.

As we start this New Year, take time to reflect on where you have been in the previous years, but focus on where you want to go. Set goals and milestones for 2017. Write those goals down so you can look at them several time through the year. Remember why you serve the State Defense forces. Your service may be invaluable to someone who can't be home for the holidays and just needs you there to listen.



CSM Mark Freeman showing LTC Marguerite McClam, Commander of the Engineering Command, elevation data for use in rebuilding above the flood zone from a robotic total station. You can see the flood level on the house in the background. Photo by MAJ Jeff Jackson, SCSG

NY



In Memoriam: SFC Mauro Bacolo (1947-2016)

by SPC Edward Shevlin Photos:NYSG

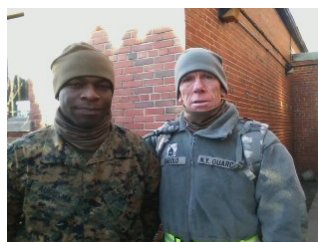
On 10 December SFC Mauro Bacolo, 88th Brigade, New York Guard (RET) completed his tour of duty here on Earth and now belongs to the ages. Mauro Bacolo was born in Redhook, Brooklyn, where he spent most of his life before retiring to Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Mr. Bacolo's life was one of service to his country, state, community, and of course, to his beloved family. At the age of 17, Mauro enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was shortly thereafter sent to Vietnam where he served as a crewman on a PBR (Patrol Boat River), interdicting weapons being sent south to the Viet Cong (VC) by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA), and fighting the Viet Cong in the jungles along the Mekong Delta. As 1965 dawned in Vietnam the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy launched *Operation Game Warden*, a joint operation which took the Mobile Riverine Force, deep into the smaller waterways of South Vietnam. Here, Mauro formed strong relationships with his shipmates and reenlisted in the U.S. Navy. By the end of his second enlistment, the young firebrand had attained the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2) before being honorably discharged. PO2 Bacolo served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam from 1964-1967.



SFC Mauro Bacolo (7 January 1947 - 10 December 2016)

Proud of his service in the United States Navy during a time when patriotism was in short supply among our nation's young people, Mauro soon accepted a position with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation where his dedication to duty was recognized by his superiors, who subsequently recommended him to The School of Professional Horticulture at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. Completing the course of study at this prestigious institution, Mr. Bacolo rose to the position of Chief Horticulturist of the Borough of Brooklyn. Chief Bacolo gave thirty years of his life to the City of New York and the beauty of Brooklyn's public parks stand as testimony to his dedication and talent.



SFC Mauro Bacolo while on State Active Duty in the Far Rockaways.

The terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001 changed the lives of all Americans who were alive on that fateful day. For the patriot Mauro Bacolo, the way forward was clear, he would rejoin the military. As soon as circumstances permitted, Mauro enlisted in the 88th Brigade of the New York Guard at the rank of E-5 and once again hit the ground running. As a member of the original NYG CERF team, Bacolo's dedication and commitment shone through as they always have, winning him the respect of both his officers and fellow enlisted men. During the course of his time in the 88th Brigade, Mauro Bacolo rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC), and received several commendations for his exemplary service.

On the day that SFC Mauro Bacolo was laid to rest, those who arrived late to Trinity Church in Asbury Park, NJ did not get a seat. Mauro had touched the lives of so many people along his life's path, and their attendance at his funeral stands as testimony to that fact. The celebration of life that was SFC Mauro Bacolo's send-off, was as beautiful as the flower gardens that he designed and tended.

NY

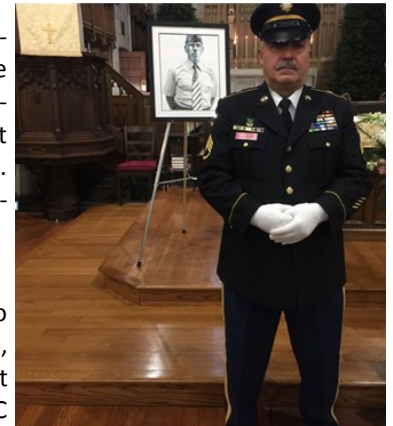
In Memoriam: SFC Mauro Bacolo (1947-2016)

by SPC Edward Shevlin Photos:NYSG

The celebrant, Father Michael Way spoke of Mauro's new home, Heaven, postulating the theory that Heaven may be different things to different souls. "Perhaps," he said, "Mauro would be tending a garden of great beauty, and when he heard one of us walk up behind him he would turn, and flash that broad smile across his face, and we would know that all was alright."

Mauro's son, Adrian, related a story of his father's kindness and generosity, telling all in attendance how, while on the way to Manhattan he and his Dad were approached by a panhandler asking for a certain amount of money, Mauro doubled what the man asked for. Adrian asked Mauro why he did that, his father answered, "There but for the grace of God go I."

At the funeral, Janice Thomas, in her lovely soprano voice sang *Ave Maria* and *Oh Holy Night*. SSG Santiago, of the New York Guard's 88th Brigade, stood post at the altar, assuring that his friend and comrade SFC Mauro Bacolo was accorded the honor due an American hero. The U.S. Navy also sent an Honor Guard. A bugler blew Taps, and the Flag Ceremony was conducted, after which Mrs. Victoria Bacolo was presented with her husband's American flag, "on behalf of a grateful nation." As the Navy Honor Guard conducted their proceedings, SFC Bacolo's New York Guard comrades stood at attention, in somber respect for one of their own.



SSG Santiago from the 88th BDE stands post during SFC Bacolo's funeral



US Navy Honor Guard, after presenting SFC Bacolo's wife with the flag at his funeral

What can we say about SFC Mauro Bacolo? He was at once a brave warrior, and a gentle horticulturist whose kindness and generosity touched all who came into contact with him. Perhaps the explanation may be found in the motto of the Fighting 69th: *Gentle When Stroked, Fierce When Provoked!*

Farewell dear friend. We wish you smooth seas and following winds as you transition to your new assignment.



SFC Bacolo is survived by his wife Victoria, his son Adrian and his twin brother Jimmy.



SGAUS PME Academy

SGAUS is pleased to announce the opening of the SGAUS PME Academy. The program offers standardize online professional development courses:

Enlisted: Primary Leader Course, Advance Leader Course, Senior Leader Course, and Command Sergeant Major Course.

Warrant Officer: Basic, Advance, and Warrant Officer Staff Course.

Officer: Basic, Advance, Command and Staff Phase I, and Command and Staff Phase II.

The SGAUS PME Academy is dedicated to the advancement of Professional Military Education (PME). The four SGAUS PME functions of DESIGN, ACQUIRE, BUILD and IMPROVE are crucial to enable SDFs to meet the needs of their respective State Military Departments. "Leader development is the deliberate, continuous, and progressive process that grows Soldiers into competent and committed professional leaders of character. Leader development is achieved through the synthesis of training, education, and experiences acquired through opportunities in the institutional, operational, and self-development domains, supported by peer and developmental relationships."

To date, the State of Mississippi, Puerto Rico, Ohio, and Alaska have signed up for the program. We are currently working with Michigan.

In order to access the program:

Your State SDF CG must approve your State participation.

You must be a SGAUS member.

The SGAUS PME program purpose is to provide a minimum standard level of training for all soldiers through online education. Further training objectives maybe required by each State. Our goal is to assist in the effort to professionalize the force.

For more information, please contact your chain of command.

Each State will have a State PME Coordinator to process their soldiers respective requests for enrollment.

Need the MEMS badge, ribbons, or other SDF items, visit the SGAUS store by clicking the photo below.



NY



Local Girl Scout Troop Assist NY Guard Soldiers During Annual Training

by SPC Richard Mayfield, Photos by CPT Mark Getman

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLAND MANOR – New York Guard Commander, Brigadier General Stephen A. Bucaria, and New York Guard Deputy Commander Colonel George DeSimone, welcomed Girl Scouts from across the Hudson Valley as they participated in their annual community service project during the Guard's 2016 training session which was held at Camp Smith from August 15-20th.

The Girl Scouts, who spent the day at Camp Smith, provided refreshments to the soldiers, and learned about the continuing mission of the New York Guard. The soldiers had the opportunity to learn about the many service projects the scouts participate in such as Operation Cookie Drop.



BGEN Bucaria and other New York Guard Officers pose with the visiting Girl Scouts

BGEN Bucaria, in welcoming this year's scout contingent, praised the Girl Scouts for their service to the overall community and reminded them that the skills they are learning as scouts will serve them well in their future careers.

BGEN Bucaria went on to say, "I am gratified that once again the Girl Scouts of New York are spending time with the members of the New York Guard. This yearly tradition is one that every member of the New York Guard looks forward to and is one of the highlights of our annual training. These young ladies remind each of us of the importance of why we train and our mission of service to the people of the State of New York."



COL Chester Edwards speaks with the Troop leaders and adult volunteers of the visiting Girl Scouts.

COL DeSimone added, "Once again the Girl Scouts brought cheer and refreshments to our soldiers who spend many hours training in the heat of a New York summer. The visit by the scouts is a great opportunity to share information and enjoy a respite from a grueling training schedule."

Alison Bergman, Operation Cookie Drop Founder and Coordinator of Ardsley Girl Scouts said, "This community service project is one of the most highly anticipated activities in our Girl Scout's calendar. Every year this project allows us to learn more about the New York Guard and the excellent training and leadership opportunity the Guard provides New Yorkers. Bergman continued, "Our Operation Cookie Drop has now surpassed 100,000 boxes of cookies being donated to servicemen and women as far as the South Pole, Afghanistan and Iraq to recovering veterans' right here in Castle Point and Montrose VA facilities."

This year over 30 Girl Scouts, and one Boy Scout, from Ardsley, Peekskill, Marlboro, Kingston, Cortlandt Manor, New City, Yonkers and Tarrytown participated with the New York Guard and each Girl Scout will receive credit towards merit badges in patriotism, cooking and first aid. In addition to the merit badges, the Scouts learn important skills and a better understanding of how the New York Guard serves all New Yorkers in peace time and during emergencies.

NY



New York Guard Lawyers Provide Legal Support to Air National Guard

by SPC Matthew Gussow

STEWART ANGB, NEWBURGH, NY – 2016 AUG 12. Airmen of the 105th Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron gather in classrooms. Each one has a black, USAA pre-deployment kit. In one room, sergeants and airmen alike joke and pass the time. In the other, the sound of papers rustling and muted chatter can be heard as those preparing to deploy speak with lawyers from the New York Guard. It's a fairly somber mood as the airmen prepare last wills and powers of attorney to give to their loved ones before deployment.

While stoic in nature, this Legal Services Operation, or LSO for short, provides a much-needed service. Airmen are provided with free legal services to help make the deployment transition easier and to make sure their affairs are in order. Volunteer lawyers from the New York Guard provide a full range of services for deploying troops overseas. These operations usually run all day and involve anywhere from eight to 10 lawyers and several support staff members.

The officer-in-charge, or OIC, is MAJ Steven Hartov; commander of Task Force 105. As the liaison between the NYG and AW 105, he arranges rooms, times, and personnel for these operations. Full cooperation is given to him to prepare what he needs and to make sure the operation runs smoothly. The NCOIC, SSG Jim Masi, coordinates the roles of the support staff, who provide everything from witnesses for document executions to technical support staff for network operations.

During these operations, lines can sometimes form as airmen wait to get their documents executed. During these times, the support staff converses with the airmen to set their minds at ease. In stark contrast to the mood inside the room where documents are being prepared, the mood outside in the hallway is more jovial. YouTube videos are being shared and conversations about cross-branch jargon happen. Despite this, the serious nature of what is going on in the next room is not lost.

The New York Guard will be holding another LSO, for airmen that did not have a chance to prepare documents this time around, on 2016 SEP 10. While the soldiers from the NYG did

process roughly 40 plus airmen through in one day, the number deploying is much larger. With the aid of the JAGs from the NYG, those that will be sent overseas will have greater peace of mind knowing that their affairs have been set in order and their loved ones will be taken care of.

Airmen line up to receive legal services from the New York Guard LSO team.



CPT Ozaruk, New York Guard, provides legal services to an Airman.



A rectangular button with a dark red background and a silver border. The text "Renew Your Membership" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered on the button.

Improved Members Service!

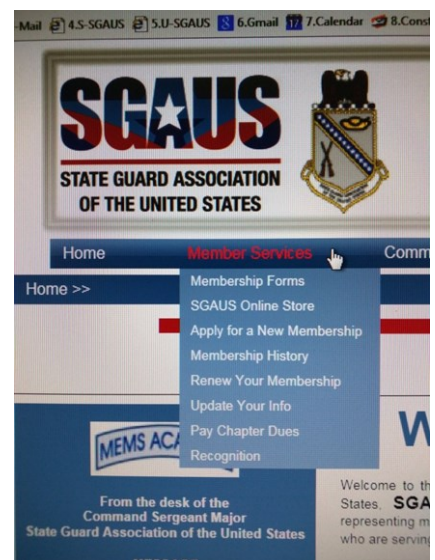


Paper Applications are a thing of the past. All Memberships (New, Renewals, Chapter and Individual) can be processed online through the SGAUS website.

All current members may also print their SGAUS membership card from the SGAUS website. Each member is assigned a login and a password when a renewal or new membership is processed online.

To print your SGAUS membership card go to <https://sgaus.org/membership-account/membership-card/>

Its that Simple!!!



NY



New York Guard Unveils New Recruiting Badge

by COL David J. Warager and SPC Richard Mayfield

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLAND MANOR, NEW YORK – Have you seen the New York Guard Recruiting Badge? This new badge is designed to show distinguished recognition of the soldiers who volunteer to take on the challenge of finding qualified applicants to become members of the New York Guard. As with the Army National Guard, it depicts the Minute Man in the center with the New York State flag accompanied by the New York Guard flag by his side. This honors the National Guard, who we are here to support and identifies the New York Guard's honorable Service Members. As we all know, the future of our New York Guard is dependent on recruiting new members and retaining current members.



The New York Guard Recruiting Badge in subdued and gold

As New York's volunteer defense force we look to our members for help in finding qualified new soldiers. Understanding that answering the call to help secure the future of the New York Guard is worthy of recognition, CSM Corey Garrett Sr. and SSG Edward Simpson of the Recruiting, Retention and Public Affairs Directorate designed this badge which was ultimately approved by Colonel David Warager, Commander of the New York Guard Recruiting Retention and Public Affairs Directorate and the New State Department of Military and Naval Affairs.

As with any worthwhile endeavor, the journey from concept to production was not easy and it took SSG Simpson, CSM Garrett and Colonel Warager over two years of negotiations and design revisions before the present badge was finalized. Today, thanks to SSG Simpson, and with the financial support of the New York Guard Association, this new badge is being produced by the Vanguard Company and is ready for award to those make recruiting a part of their service to the Guard.

What are the requirements for wearing the recruiting badge? There are two categories for authorized wear of the NYG Recruiting Badge for NYG soldiers. The first is the Temporary Authorization and the second is the Permanent Authorization. NYG Soldiers can earn the temporary authorization to wear the NYG Recruiting Badge after being assigned to a recruiting role for 90 days and obtaining one recruit. Temporary wear will continue to be authorized during the time assigned to the recruiting role. Permanent wear of the NYG Recruiting Badge can be earned after serving in a recruiting role for a period of not less than 18 months while achieving an exemplary evaluation rating for that period and successfully recruiting at least 10 recruits.

The New York Guard was established in August 1917, and in August 2017 they will be Commemorating 100 Years of service to the State of New York and its Citizens. They are currently selling Commemorative Challenge Coins, T-shirt, and Mugs to celebrate the occasion.

If you would like to purchase any of these limited edition items and support the New York Guard for this momentous occasion contact Captain Mark Getman, NYG PAO at mark.getman@dmna-nyg.ny.gov



The first recipients of the New York Guard Recruiting Badge, (L to R) SSG John Shmotolocha, SSG Edward Simpson, and COL David Warager, Commander of the NYG Recruit/Retention/PAO Directorate

OH



COL (OH) Richard J. Vasquez Appointed New Commander in Ohio

By 2 LT (OH) James P. Trakas, Public Affairs Officer

(CAMP PERRY, OHIO) COL (OH) Richard J. Vasquez has taken over as Commanding Officer of Ohio's 4th Civil Support and Sustainment Brigade, Ohio Military Reserve. Vasquez became commanding office by the mandatory retirement of COL (OH) Wayne T. Woodall, who led OHMR for the prior three years.

In a poignant ceremony at Port Clinton's historic Camp Perry, the Brigade Flag was passed from COL Woodall to COL Vasquez by BDE CSM Richard Backus and Assistant Adjutant General MG John C. Harris, USAR on a warm 22 SEP 16. Camp Perry's Hough Theatre, the site of many such ceremonies for this unit and Ohio's National Guard since 1938.

MG Harris praised outgoing Commander Woodall and thanked him for his service to the state. "You have done an amazing job and your service is appreciated." Harris stated that he was impressed with COL Vasquez and the direction that he wanted to take Ohio Military Reserve. Harris said that he was a strong advocate for OHMR, and stated, "You will be deployed, maybe not as on Brigade, may as individuals with strong skills to supplement the National Guard, but you will be called out."

For his part, Vasquez humbly accepted command and painted a bold vision for the Brigade. "We have to think and act big, we will not think small, we will constantly be creating opportunities to improve OHMR and our ability to deploy successfully whatever mission we may be called upon." Said The newly minted Colonel.

Among his priorities as overall Brigade Commander, COL Vasquez will focus on individualized training and preparedness of the Soldier. New expectations for leadership were put forward including very practical application of learned knowledge for all Soldiers and Officers. Tenacious and bold, Vasquez has forged a close relationship with the State's Adjutant General's Office to integrate training and unit preparedness so that OHMR will have deployable soldiers or units to support state missions.

COLONEL (OH) RICHARD J. VASQUEZ

BDE Commander, Ohio
Military Reserve 4/CSSB

COL Vasquez serves as the
Ohio Military Reserve

(OHMR) Brigade Commander since 23 SEP 16. Prior to that date, he served as S-3, Chief of Operations, Training and Plans, 4th Civil Support and Sustainment BDE. COL Vasquez served in a variety of progressively challenging posts, including 1st BN CDR and a 30-day detail as Acting BDE CDR of the 5th MP BDE (prior to its reflagging), 5th MP BDE S-3 and 53rd MP BN CDR.

His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (OHMR), the Ohio Medic Badge (OHMR), the Emergency Management Spec Badge (SGAUS) and the Engineering Skills Qualification Badge (SGAUS).





For Your Information (FYI)

Deadline for Items Needing Board Consideration

Suspense: 1 March 2017

Guidelines:

1. No more than one page.
2. Must be present.
3. Must be active/current SGAUS member.

Format: Items not submitted by the suspense and format below will not be considered.

- Subject:
- Presenter:
- Issue:
- Points of concern: (bullets, narratives not accepted)
- Recommendation (s):

Send to: kenneth.takasaki@sgaus.org

Scholarship, Stipend, Soldier, NCO, and Officer of the Year

Suspense: 15 March 2017

Guidelines:

1. Please go to this link for guidelines and application: <https://sgaus.org/reference/programsawards/>
2. Soldier of the Year: E-1 to E-5
3. NCO of the Year: E-6 to E-8
4. Officer of the Year: O-1 to O-5 and WO1 to CW4

Send to: kenneth.takasaki@sgaus.org

Have an article for the SGAUS Times?

Suspense: 30 April 2017

Guidelines:

1. No more than 3 pages double spaced in Microsoft Word only. PDF documents will be returned.
2. Pictures with captions. Low resolution photos are not recommended and may not be used.
3. Author information to include all contact information.
4. Approved by your SDF Commander

SDF/State Guard Newsletters:

Does your State Defense Force/State Guard have a State Newsletter? Send it to SGAUS and we will post it on the SGAUS website.

Send to: kenneth.takasaki@sgaus.org

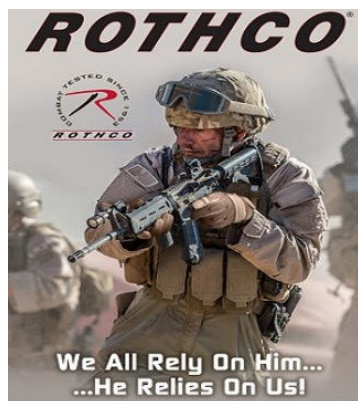
PR

Puerto Rico State Guard - Direct Commission Program



Today's morning at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, five (5) professional medical personnel from the 1st ABG and one (1) PRSG Army Officer graduated from the Direct Appointment Officer Course (DAOC). As professional officers they received the fundamental military education to fulfill their roles at the PRASG Appointment Officer Course (DAOC). As professional officers they received the fundamental military education to fulfill their roles at the PRASG.

SGAUS has partnered with Rothco, the world's foremost supplier of military, tactical, outdoor clothing and gear. We have increased our store offerings from 68 to 1,375 items. Check us out at the SGAUS and/or Rothco store on line at www.sgaus.org



SC

THE S.C. STATE GUARD'S UNIQUE "DIVE OPERATIONS" CAPABILITIES

By W. Thomas Smith, Jr. COL (Ret.) SCSG USMC Infantry

Among its myriad search-and-rescue capabilities, the South Carolina State Guard (SCSG) has added UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY (dive team) to its professional assets. And the team is proving to be as unique as the SCSG itself.

"We are a true force-multiplier in terms of rescue and recovery for any and all law-enforcement agencies across the state," says MAJ Julian Blair, the SCSG dive team commander. "Our team is truly unique in that we are made up of State Guardsmen with a variety of skills, such as law enforcement divers, commercial divers, communications specialties, firefighters, and retired U.S. Army Special Forces divers all trained as public safety divers dedicated to serving the citizens of South Carolina."

DIVE TEAM CONCEPTION

The SCSG dive team is the brainchild of Maj. Gen. Tom Mullikin – commander of the SCSG – who conceived the idea of a State Guard SCUBA-diving mission and a team to support that mission as early as 2012. The idea would bring (and has since brought) together law-enforcement and military diving components together with the ability to rapidly respond anywhere in the state at little to no cost to the taxpayer.

Mullikin needed the right leader for his team, and he found him in Blair, "easily one of the most experienced law-enforcement divers in the nation," says Mullikin. A former U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations investigator who served as both a detective sergeant and special agent for two different law enforcement agencies in South Carolina, Blair "holds the highest levels of certification for SCUBA and law enforcement diving," says Mullikin, adding, "He brings a wellspring of experience to this team."

THE TEAM

Approximately 20 divers are on the SCSG dive-team roster; that includes both members of the team and



a few in reserve serving in each of the SCSG's three geographic brigades. There are also dive-team candidates who are currently training.

"Our divers are fit, trained to the most exacting standards, and fielded as the best," says Blair.





THE S.C. STATE GUARD'S UNIQUE "DIVE OPERATIONS" CAPABILITIES

By W. Thomas Smith, Jr. COL (Ret.) SCSGUSMC Infantry

Why a SCSG dive team and why a rescue and recovery mission? "It's simple," says Mullikin. "Many South Carolina counties do not have agencies with dive capabilities. They rely on the assets of other agencies, and sometimes those assets are stretched thin in their own communities [in the event of a statewide natural disaster like the Joaquin flooding of 2015 or Hurricane Matthew in 2016]."

That, or the individual county dive assets are too distantly located for rapid response to other counties and municipalities lacking a dive component within their respective law enforcement or firefighting agencies.

The SCSG dive team, however, is trained, operationally designed, and pre-positioned with mobility in mind, able to rapidly support all agencies and all geographic-response needs – either in an agency supporting role or as a fully trained-and-equipped, independently operating dive-team asset – at zero cost to the taxpayer.

COMMAND EXPERIENCE

"This team can supplement or augment other-agency dive teams around the state," says Mullikin, who having logged dives in all five oceans, including certified ice dives, and is a certified rescue diver – personally trains many of his SCSG divers.

"Maj. Gen. Tom Mullikin has combined his extensive dive experience with a lifetime of support for law enforcement and prosecution," says Brig. Gen. Leon Lott, deputy commander of the SCSG and the Sheriff of Richland County.

Lott, whose Richland County Sheriff's Dept. (RCSD) also maintains a well-trained, fully equipped dive team, says Mullikin's passion for diving as well as his proven diving skills are the reason he (Lott) has engaged the volunteer services of Mullikin as a special deputy on the RCSD dive team.

CREATING A NEXUS

In addition to his service both as an RCSD special deputy and as SCSG commander wherein he brings strong developmental oversight to the SCSG dive team, Mullikin has also "striven to create a nexus," as he explains, between his corporate environmental law practice and his diving expeditions around the world with years of work in both law enforcement and prosecution. That experience includes work as a former assistant solicitor (prosecutor) for Judicial Circuit, former state constable, former instructor for the Kershaw County Sheriff's Office (for reserve deputies), former prosecutor (trial counsel) for the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Generals Corps, and as a former special assistant to the Chief Prosecutor for Military Commissions (GTMO).

The relatively new, wholly unique SCSG dive team is a tangible result of this nexus.

For more information about the S.C. State Guard dive team or other SCSG units and teams, please visit – <http://www.sg.sc.gov/>.



Hearing Aids for military retirees



The Department of Defense -sponsored Retiree-AT-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RAVHAP) is designed to help military retirees purchase hearing aids through the audiology clinic at a special government negotiated cost. The hearing aids available through this program are the same state of the art technologies available to active duty service members. The program is open to all military retirees who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Dependents of military retirees are not eligible for this program.

Retirees can buy hearing aids at significant savings. A set of hearing aids (one of the best available) that retails for about \$5000 cost a retiree as little as \$755 or a savings of about 85 percent. Services for hearing evaluation, hearing aid fitting and follow up hearing aid checks are part of your retirement benefits and are available to you at no cost.

Not every military medical facility is able to provide the RACHAP program. If you are traveling to a participating site from out of town, you need to compare your travel costs and purchase savings to the cost of purchasing hearing aids privately in your local community. Travel and overnight expenses are not covered. Generally, at least two visits are required for you to get hearing aids; one for your hearing evaluation and one for your hearing aid fitting.

The list of facilities is available online at <http://militaryaudiology.org/rachap-rhapp-locations/>. This list may change occasionally, so call your closest clinic to see if they are participating in the program.

Military retirees may be eligible for hearing aids from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and receive hearing aids from the VA free of charge- in most cases there is no cost to patient. Audiology departments can provide you with more information about VA services or you may contact the VA directly AT (877) 222-8387 OR (800)827-1000.

Dependents of retirees are not eligible for hearing aid services from military treatment facilities (including RACHAP) or from TRICARE. The family member is eligible for hearing aid evaluations and the audiologist can provide information about hearing aids.



Peak performance

By Chris Horn, Director of University Publications, University of South Carolina

[EDITORIAL NOTE: This article about Maj. Gen. Thomas Stowe Mullikin, commander of the S.C. State Guard and pres. of SGAUS, appeared in the winter 2017 edition of CAROLINIAN magazine, the official publication of the University of South Carolina.]

When he's not working to save the Amazon, Tom Mullikin climbs mountains, hikes volcanoes, dives with sharks, explores the effects of climate change, leads the S.C. State Guard ... and occasionally sits in a rocking chair in his Camden, S.C., law office.

An unrelenting wind howls over the mountain's uppermost ridge as Tom Mullikin trudges toward the summit, sleet pellets striking his goggles in the -30 degrees cold.

There's little room for error on Mt. Elbrus, southern Russia's 18,510-foot peak, one of the world's Seven Summits. Mullikin, his son, Thomas, and a Russian guide follow the narrow beams of their headlamps as they shuffle upward in the predawn darkness — they must reach the top by early morning to descend safely before nightfall.

"You're climbing on a ridge where it's a long way down on either side," Mullikin says. "Summit day is very steep, it's the hardest part of the mountain, but you get unbelievable views — it's very much a religious experience."

And it's a dangerous pursuit, too. Wind gusts blew a pair of American hikers off the side of Aconcagua the same day Mullikin and his son climbed that 23,000-foot Argentinian peak. But Mullikin is driven to keep climbing — no small feat for a man who doctors said would never walk.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Mullikin has SCUBA dived in each of the world's five oceans — under the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic — and planted the S.C. flag on four of the Seven Summits (he could become the first person to dive the five and climb all seven). In keeping with his law firm's focus on corporate environmental, health and safety issues, and his own keen interest in the environment, he has also hiked active volcanoes and melting glaciers and explored pristine and polluted places on every continent.

If that weren't enough proof of his prowess, Mullikin has a karate black belt, has qualified as an Army master fitness trainer and serves as a volunteer rescue diver.

"His lifestyle would tax a 20-year-old," says W. Thomas Smith Jr., one of Mullikin's close friends. "A fit 20-year-old."

But this kind of swashbuckling, globetrotting life was never supposed to happen. Mullikin was born in 1960 with two club feet pointed backwards, toes touching calves. The initial prognosis was that he'd never walk. But surgeries turned the feet around, and perseverance and his parents' tough love propelled young Mullikin forward.



Peak performance

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"Tom's parents never let him use the fact that he was born with club feet as an excuse," says Virginia Ann, his wife of 34 years. "They always told him he could do anything he set his mind to — and he believed it."

That parental support played a large role in shaping Mullikin's character. The family moved frequently, following Mullikin's dad to several DuPont industrial plants. Some kids might have been daunted by the near-constant transition — seven different schools by the time the Mullikins landed in Camden, S.C. — but not Tom.

"He was always so confident. He'd walk into a school on the first day like he owned it," says Mary Pat Kornegay, his twin sister. "I'd be hanging onto his shirttails for confidence."

MAKING THE GRADE

Mullikin was a straight-A student at Camden High School, playing tennis and always working a part-time job or two. He started Carolina in 1978 with his sights set on medical school, excelling in organic chemistry and math courses and paying his own way as a State House page and an intern in U.S. Sen. Ernest Hollings' Columbia office.

His never-met-a-stranger personality proved more than merely charming. While working in Columbia's federal building, Mullikin reached out to a suicidal man who was about to leap from the building's 15th floor. A legislative resolution later commended Mullikin's "quick reflexes and soothing manner" in helping to pull the individual to safety.

Though he was putting in 40 hours a week and signed up for a full slate of classes, Mullikin also found time to serve as president of his fraternity and keep an eye on Mary Pat, who didn't quite share her brother's enthusiasm for academics. "He had my schedule taped on his wall," she says. "He knew I had to be up and he'd make sure I went to my 8 o'clock classes."

While he remained interested in medicine, Mullikin's work with Sen. Hollings steered him toward environmental issues, and he graduated in 1982 with a degree in political science. By 1986 he had completed a law degree from Carolina and joined the staff of then-U.S. Sen. Al Gore. He later began to practice at a large firm in Charlotte where he tackled complex environmental problems.

"My team had engineers and scientists. We produced two documentaries on climate change," he says. "I've met with the scientists who study these things, but I'm not getting my information only from someone else's lens. I go to the places where climate change is happening now — that's what has led me into climbing and diving."

Years later, Mullikin opened his own environmental and health focused firm in Camden. His clients have included a London-based hotel chain that wanted to become more energy and water efficient. His environmental support helped them earn a reputation for sustainable business practices.



Peak performance

By Chris Horn, Director of University Publications, University of South Carolina

Mullikin advised another client, a large manufacturer, to plant 30,000 trees to offset its carbon footprint. “We also did rainwater collection at the plant powered with solar and used solar on some of the administrative buildings,” he says. “If you can advise businesses how to take steps toward environmental sustainability that can be achieved at a reasonable cost and in an economically sustainable manner, they’re all over it.”

A company that recycles solvents sought Mullikin’s assistance in getting operational permits for its plant in a troubled south-central Los Angeles neighborhood. The firm was up against stiff neighborhood opposition, and the company was prepared to spend millions to navigate what was shaping up to be a contentious process.

Mullikin started knocking on doors and began working with neighborhood organizers to create a collaborative model, he says. The company had been hiring contract employees — none of whom lived in the surrounding neighborhoods — “so we started a training program that created good technical jobs for nearly 75 neighborhood residents. We found a way to get the community to embrace that company.”

An eco adventure

Mullikin has done that rare thing in life, combining his passion with business. That drive to understand the global environment and help corporate clients adopt sustainable practices has taken him around the world — and he wants others to go, too.

That’s why he, Virginia Ann and daughter Alex founded Global Eco Adventures. The nonprofit provides opportunities for lawyers, industry representatives, students and environmentalists to travel to fragile ecosystems such as Machu Picchu, the Galapagos Islands and the Namib desert. The trips are occasionally offered as continuing legal education courses; others are fact-finding missions for those who want to better understand the causes and effects of climate change.

“The environment is not a partisan issue,” Mullikin says. “I’ve tried to bring people with very different perspectives and, with the help of field scientists, give participants a close-up look at what’s happening on the ground.”

A separate component for teens and preteens involves science exploration in Congaree National Park and a hike to the top of Mt. Mitchell in North Carolina. The nonprofit has also supported scientific research, such as an East Coast shark migration study.

Mullikin’s burgeoning reputation as an extreme explorer recently came across National Geographic’s radar, and that venerable institution has invited him to begin leading trips to places like Alaska’s Denali peak.

“I enjoy teaching,” says Mullikin, who serves as a research professor at Coastal Carolina University, “especially when the classroom is the outdoors.”



Peak performance

By Chris Horn, Director of University Publications, University of South Carolina

SAVING THE AMAZON

Mullikin's world travels have taken him to places of nearly indescribable beauty and some places he would rather forget — but can't.

One is in Ecuador, not far from the Amazon River, where a North American oil firm left behind a mind-boggling mess of tar pits and other refuse that is threatening the environment and human lives, Mullikin says.

"This is something I've dedicated my business to solving because it weighs on me," Mullikin says. "If I don't do it, I don't see anyone else who is going to do it. There is a multi-billion dollar judgment and millions in legal fees that, quite frankly, have spawned a sense of inertia. But something has to be done."

One of Mullikin's personal maxims states, "Identifiable tasks with identifiable goals will lead to identifiable progress." Toward that end, he is working to bring his firm's technical and legal resources to the table, partnering with a South American university and its academic research capabilities. The hope is to use best practices from other large environmental remediation sites to break down hydrocarbon pollutants stored in huge open pits before they seep into the Amazon.

"What I saw will stay with me — some things you just can't unsee," he says. "If it was easy, someone would already have cleaned it up, but if we work collaboratively, we can do it. I know we can."

— Read the *CAROLINIAN* magazine version online at — http://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2016/12/alumnus_driven_to_new_heights.php





SGAUS To Hold Public Affairs Officer/Public Information Officer Session at the 2017 SGAUS Conference

A Public Affairs Officer (PAO)/Public Information Officer (PIO) Training and Conference will be held at the 2017 State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on 22 September. This will be the first training and conference for SGAUS PAO/PIO personnel, and it will be modeled on trainings held for Judge Advocate Generals (JAG) and Chaplains. Content for this full day training is yet to be finalized, but it is expected that sessions will cover topics such as National Incident Management System (NIMS) *Basic Guidance for Public Information Officers*, best practices for State Defense Force (SDF) PAOs at headquarters and unit level, recommendations for table top exercises for PAO/PIO personnel, and additional trainings and information.

The rationale for the training is to heighten awareness of duties of PAO/PIO personnel in SDFs. In the 21st century the role of the PAO with respect to public information, especially with a rapidly changing social media environment and the role that SDFs play in disaster relief, is increasingly important. To function professionally the PAO should begin to work toward an attitude of a professional information officer, and training and best practices of PAO/PIO officers will be shared to help achieve this end. SDFs can improve in getting the story of SDFs and their mission to all Americans, and these techniques can be learned and practiced. The way to do this is to begin the development of a professional PAO corps. Doing so will have a positive affect on public perception, influencing state legislators and recruitment as well as creating a sense of community among SDF forces.

Examples of content that will be discussed include how to run social media inside an SDF unit (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram); write articles for SGAUS and SDF magazines and newsletters; shoot photo's, post-process pictures, and maintain an archive; shoot and edit video and upload to DVIDS and maintain an archive; produce commemorative items (t-shirts, poker chips, photo books, coins, and other paraphernalia); and keep a history of the unit.

More information on the PAO/PIO Conference and Training can be had by contacting 1LT Steven Estes at LTSteven.Estes@icloud.com.



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TN

Radio Celebrity and Host Ralph Bristol Keynotes Tennessee State Guard Banquet

By LT STEVEN ESTES, PAO

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE – On 3 December 2016 the Tennessee State Guard (TNSG) held its annual banquet at the Nashville Airport Hotel. Approximately 200 soldiers and family members attended, and several highlights included promotions including the awarding of the Soldier of the Year, Captain Anthony Crawford of Nashville, Tennessee.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote address by local radio host (WTN 99.7) Ralph Bristol. Bristol is a 37-year veteran of radio and TV broadcasting, including the host of Nashville's Morning News, the top-rated morning drive political talk show in Tennessee's largest radio market. Bristol regularly engages with members of Congress, state legislators, scholars, activists and the public in important policy debates on his morning drive program. Bristol's show is often considered "mandatory listening" for conservative state lawmakers and political campaigns.

Bristol is a U.S. Air Force Veteran (1971-75), and is active in community and regional charity events including Rotary Club and the Music City Honor Flight, an effort that took more than 600 Middle Tennessee WWII veterans to Washington D.C. to see the WWII Memorial, free of charge to the veterans. He has also produced and hosted Armed Forces Day celebrations for Middle Tennessee members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.



Ralph Bristol of WTN 99.7 is thanked for keynoting the 2016 TNSG Banquet by BG (TN) Craig Johnson, Commanding.



TX



Texas Guard Searches for Deceased Immigrants

The [Texas State Guard](#) is one of three branches of the Texas Military Forces (TMF) which fall under the command of the Governor. Unlike the Texas Army National Guard and the Texas Air National Guard, the State Guard is not part of the United States military. It is made up of civilian volunteers who give their time to be of service to Texas in times of emergency. The State Guard is organized as an official state militia under the authority of [Title 32 of the U.S. Code](#) and [Chapter 437 of the Texas Government Code](#). Volunteer deputies were in the field with the State Guard members. "These guys are real professionals," volunteer deputy said about the guardsmen. "They cover the ranches in precision search patterns that have resulted in finding more of the bodies than have been found before."



Texas State Guardsmen searching for deceased immigrants in Brooks County.

Texas State Guard PME Academy Staff

The Texas State Guard graduated 10 new officers from the Officer Candidate School at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas, December 14, 2016. The graduates

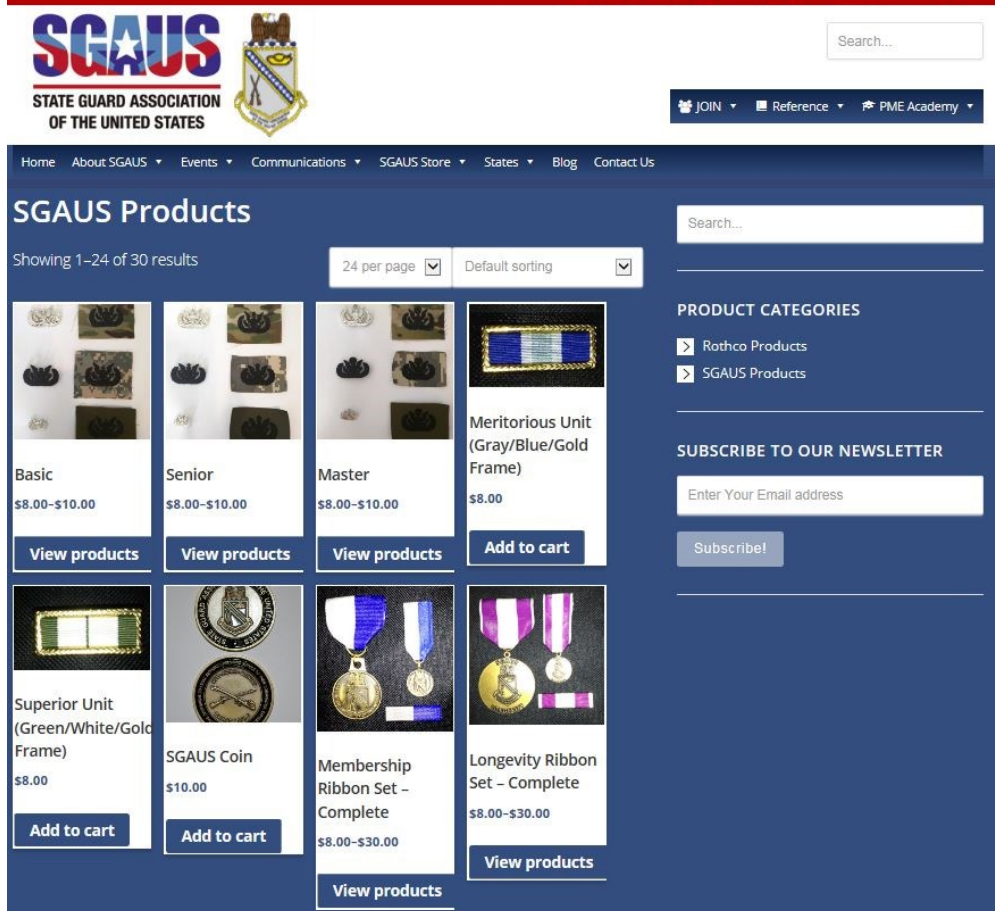
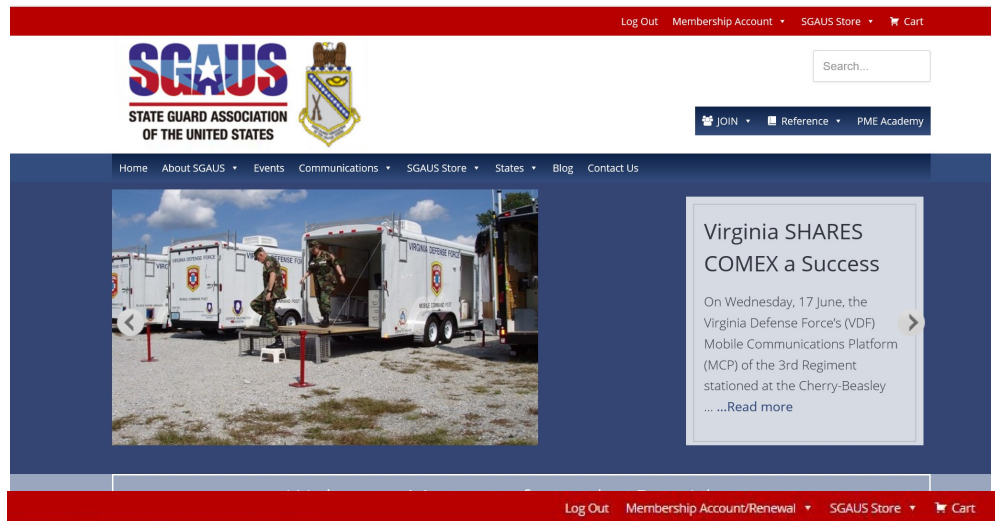


are grateful to the guidance and support of COL Thomas Hamilton, Professional Military Education Director and the OCS cadre of Officer Candidate School Commander Capt. Scott Hunt, Executive Officer Lt. Richard Faltot, Senior TAC Officer 1st Lt. Roy Lopez, JAG TAC Officer Lt. Lee McNutt, OCS Sergeant Major Master Gunnery Sgt. John Nichols, Senior TAC NCO Senior Master Sergeant Raymond Winkler, TAC NCOs Master Sgt. Wade Lay and Sgt. Richard Rodriguez, Medics 1st Lt. Vincent Abel and 1st Sgt. Roger Dean.

SGAUS New Look and Feel

Check out the new SGAUS web site. [Click Here](#)

To access the SGAUS Store you must be a SGAUS member and you must sign in.



VA

VA National Guard / State Guard Staged, Ready to Respond

The Virginia National Guard has approximately 200 personnel staged and ready Jan. 7, 2017, at guard readiness centers through the Hampton Roads area.

Some soldiers and vehicles are prepositioned at firehouses and other emergency services facilities in the region in order to quickly deploy if needed as part of the state's multi-agency response.

"I am incredibly proud of how quickly our forces were able to stage Friday night in order to be ready for possible missions Saturday morning, and most importantly they did it safely," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the adjutant general of Virginia. "Our state and local partners count on us to provide the capabilities they need in order to help the citizens of the commonwealth when faced with hazardous weather situations, and once again our soldiers, airmen and Virginia Defense Force troopers have demonstrated we are able to rapidly respond when we are needed. Our forces are standing by to assist local first responders in keep our fellow Virginians safe."

Expected missions for the guard include using Humvees and light/medium tactical trucks to provide transportation for first responders through snow or help evacuate citizens in need of shelter. Soldiers are also organized into debris reduction teams with chain saws to help clear roads if needed.

Additional soldiers, airmen and Virginia Defense Force troopers are on duty in Sandston and Fort Pickett providing mission command, sustainment, incident management assistance and public information support.

Governor Terry McAuliffe declared a state of emergency Jan. 6, 2017, and urged residents of the commonwealth to prepare for impacts from a winter storm system, which potentially could result in significant snow accumulation, hazardous road conditions and high winds. This order authorizes state agencies to assist local governments in responding to this major winter storm that is expected to impact the commonwealth through the weekend.



VA

Virginia Defense Forces Provides EOC Augmentation



Members of the Virginia Defense Force provide operations center augmentation at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center in support of Virginia National Guard winter storm response operations Jan. 7, 2017, in Richmond, Virginia. Approximately 200 Virginia National Guard personnel are staged and ready in the Hampton Roads area with Humvees, light/medium tactical trucks and chain saws to be ready to assist with response operations

Pentagon to Open Online Exchange Shopping to Vets in 2017

A Defense Department retail board has given the green light to a plan to open online exchange shopping to all honorably discharged veterans, with hopes of starting the program on Veterans Day in 2017.



The move, originally proposed by the [Army](#) and [Air Force](#) Exchange Service in 2014, was approved by the Executive Resale Board early this month. The board unanimously voted to ask the Pentagon to update its policy regarding patronage rules.

Pentagon officials confirmed that the proposal is still under consideration.

The board's decision was announced in an Aug. 12 email newsletter from the American Logistics Association, which lobbies on behalf of companies that do business with the exchange and commissary systems.

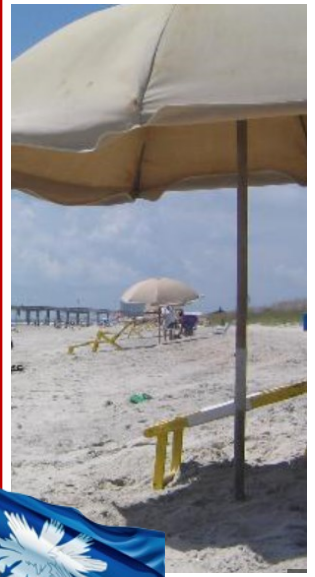
Opening the Exchange to the about 20 million honorably discharged U.S. veterans comes with a strong business case, Exchange officials have said.

The move could produce between \$226 million to \$1.13 billion in annual sales, according to the 2014 proposal. It could bring as much as \$108 million annually in support for MWR programs, which rely on exchange dividends for the bulk of their funding across the services, it says.





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